

and make a difference. He solved some key problems and was able to return to running only the Department of Health 2 years later.

Prior to assuming the role of Executive Director in 1992, Rod served as the Utah Director of the Division of Health Care Financing. In this position he was responsible for all facets of the state Medicaid program and the Utah Medical Assistance Program. Rod's experience directing the Alaska Medical Assistance Program for 12 years before coming to Utah had served him well, and established him as a capable leader.

Rod has not only made a name for himself in Utah he is widely respected throughout the Nation. He is frequently called upon to represent the States' perspectives before Federal officials. He is a recognized expert on Medicaid and health care financing, and is widely viewed as an expert on health care reform.

Rod is returning to his native Alaska to become the President and CEO of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association. He will also be able to pursue his love of King salmon fishing, and to be near his family. He will be deeply missed throughout Utah for his expertise, commitment and leadership. I want to commend Rod for the exemplary service he has given to the Utah Department of Health, Utah State Government, and to our nation. He is not only a truly great public servant, he is a loving husband and father to his wife, Ellen, and their three children. I wish Rod the very best life has to offer and pray for his continued good health, success, and happiness.

#### A TRIBUTE TO TENNIS GREAT ALTHEA GIBSON

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, some 40 years ago while investigating a case near the intersection of US 15 and State Highway 26, up a dirt road, there were located four shacks. One was the home of Ms. Elizabeth Gibson. I asked her if she had ever heard of Althea Gibson. She pointed to the shack and said she was born right there in that shack. That was the first time I had ever heard that Althea Gibson was a native South Carolinian.

Of course, she had to leave South Carolina to become a success. The good news now is that you can stay in the State and succeed. Over the weekend we lost Althea Gibson. We lost this championship athlete at the age of 76. USA TODAY has an interesting article of her success, and I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TENNIS TRAILBLAZER ALTHEA GIBSON DEAD  
AT 76

(By Doug Smith)

She took the snap from center, faded back like a seasoned quarterback and then threw a perfect spiral on target to a receiver 35 yards down field. Althea Gibson was 58 at the time, testing her arm in a friendly game of touch football in Washington, D.C.

"I'm a little rusty, but I can still chuck it," she said.

In her younger days, Gibson, who was 76 when she died Sunday of respiratory failure at an East Orange, N.J., hospital, played tennis with the same unexpected boldness and talent.

A trailblazer for African-Americans as well as women, Gibson fulfilled her dreams of becoming a great tennis champion despite the racial barriers of that era. She won 11 major titles, including the 1956 French Open, Wimbledon (1957-58) and U.S. Open (1957-58) and was the first African-American to play in Grand Slam events.

She was named Associated Press and Babe Zaharias Woman Athlete of the Year in 1957-58 and was honored with a New York ticker-tape parade in July 1957 after becoming the first African-American to win Wimbledon.

Gibson won her first tournament at 15, becoming the New York State black girls' singles tennis champion. Boxer Sugar Ray Robinson helped pay for her travels.

"We all know people who influence us and, if we are lucky, we meet a few in our lives who improve us," tennis legend Billie Jean King said. "Althea Gibson improved my life and the lives of countless others. She was the first to break so many barriers and from the first time I saw her play, when I was 13 years old, she became, and remained, one of my true heroines."

"It was truly an inspiration for me to watch her overcome adversity," King added. "Althea did a lot for people in tennis, but she did even more for people in general. In a tribute, Arthur Ashe once said, 'Politically, Althea's acceptance was crucial to my own. It made it easier for other blacks to follow.'"

Zina Garrison, a 1990 Wimbledon finalist, Lori McNeil, Leslie Allen and Serena and Venus Williams say they were inspired by Gibson's success. Gibson had lived as a recluse in her East Orange home since suffering a stroke in 1994. Besides her longtime friend Fran Gray, Garrison and former New York mayor David Dinkins were among only a few who spoke to or visited Gibson over the last few years.

Garrison said she made a surprise visit to Gibson in her home last month after the U.S. Open.

"I just decided that I wanted to see her," Garrison said. "She looked at me and said 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'I came to see you. Looks like you're doing OK. You're still feisty.' She started laughing and said, 'I might look good, but I don't feel that great. I'm just tired, tired of being here.'"

"I think of all that she had done in golf, as a singer, her tennis, the music that she played, and I realize that she broke barriers for women, not just for African-Americans."

Born on a cotton farm in Silver, S.C., on Aug. 25, 1927, she moved with her family to New York when she was 3. She grew up on the rugged streets of Harlem and made the transition from farm girl to city girl without missing a step. She excelled in baseball, basketball, football and was unbeatable in paddle tennis and stickball champion in the Police Athletic League.

When not involved in tennis or team athletics, Althea spent most of her teenage years in pool halls and bowling alleys. In 1946, Gibson was rescued from a possible life of poverty by two black physicians—Hubert Eaton and Robert Walter Johnson—when she showed potential as a tennis player.

With her mother's approval, the physicians devised a plan that allowed Gibson to live with Eaton in Wilmington, N.C., during the school year and spend the summers training on Johnson's backyard court in Lynchburg, Va. She quickly became the premier African-American woman player in the country.

She took up golf in 1960 and became the first black woman on the LPGA Tour two years later, but she never won a tournament and earned little money.

Recently, Gibson, Fran Gray and others had collaborated on a book, "Born to Win: The Althea Gibson Story," to be published next year.

"I called her champ and still do," Dinkins said. "We say everybody stands on somebody else's shoulders, and we're talking about people like Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. A whole lot of people—tennis players and many who are not tennis players—stand on Althea's shoulders, because when any black achieves in any discipline, it helps everybody else. It's unfortunate that she never realized and reaped the rewards that she was due."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. "BOBBY" PFEIFFER

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, one of Hawaii's most widely respected business and community leaders has passed away. Robert J. "Bobby" Pfeiffer was, as his friends described him, "an old sea dog" who rose from deck hand aboard tugs and steamers to become Chief Executive of one of Hawaii's most important companies, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc., and of its subsidiary, Matson Navigation Co., Inc.

He was a man of vision who was always in touch with the concerns of all of the people of Hawaii. He often said, "What is good for the community is good for business."

I would like to honor the late Mr. Pfeiffer by asking to have the following biography of Mr. Pfeiffer printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

ROBERT J. "BOBBY" PFEIFFER, MARCH 7, 1920–  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.; CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, MATSON NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC.

"Old sailors never die, they just drop the anchor," Robert J. "Bobby" Pfeiffer said over a decade ago as he was contemplating retirement. Pfeiffer, one of Hawaii's most renowned sailors and captains of industry, dropped the anchor on September 26, 2003, at age 83, at his home in Orinda, Calif., after a lengthy illness.

During his 12½ years at the helm of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc., Bobby Pfeiffer became practically synonymous with business leadership in Hawaii. He charted a course of modernization and diversification, and led A&B through one of its strongest periods of growth and prosperity. At the same time he earned a reputation for leadership—personal as well as corporate—in support of charitable and other community causes.

Mr. Pfeiffer's maritime and business career spanned 58 years, nearly 38 of them with A&B and its ocean transportation subsidiary, Matson Navigation Company, Inc. During that nearly four-decade period, he served as A&B's chief executive longer than all but two of his predecessors, and he piloted Matson for 19 years, longer than any of that company's chief executives since its founder, Captain William Matson.

For his significant contributions to the mid- and late-20th-century modernization of American shipping, Bobby Pfeiffer was recognized with the transportation and maritime industries' highest honors.